



SYSTEM COUNCIL NO. 6

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Tom Owens
General Chairman

Shannon Spotswood
Vice Chairman

Mike Stacks
Secretary-Treasurer

General Chairman's Report – September, 2020

Brothers and Sisters:

Furloughs: The Carrier is seeing an upturn in car loadings. Levels are still below previous year's loadings but have climbed up from the catastrophic points recorded earlier in the year. A few, isolated temporary recall attempts have occurred, but nothing of any significant numbers. The large portion of the furloughs were clearly PSR driven without any relation to car loadings.

Covid-19: During the bi-monthly update with the Carrier, the Mechanical Department showed 11 employees off for Covid related issues (2 positive, 4 testing, 4 quarantined, 1 off flu like symptoms). While no Engineering management was on the conference call, I did inquire with Labor Relations as to the continued forced shift changes at Charlotte Roadway Shop.

National Negotiations: Our group will be presenting a position regarding wages and finances in the next meeting set for October.

Communications Workers: Negotiations are continuing. The Carrier has served notice of cancellation to the current subcontractor. The Carrier has also expressed concerns due to the negative response/complaints vocalized at Departmental meetings by a couple of members. Discussions have touched on time studies showing an underutilization of workers during the work day. Prior to this point, the Carrier had considered keeping the subcontractor and enacted much deeper cuts in the membership.

PLB 5332: The Board is set for October 12th, 2020. We have 6 cases on the docket. Due to the delay in extending the federal budget, the NMB will only allow the arbitrator to write decisions for the first three cases in October. A second board will be set for November 6th, 2020 for the remaining three cases. The cases are: Burns Harbor, IL – member observed by supervision arriving & leaving work early, falsification of payroll; Bellevue, OH – SGL lead case regarding displacement of SGL's; Chattanooga, TN – Appendix M lead case for protective benefits for furloughed members; Bellevue, OH – member failed to report injury, false statements; Atlanta, GA – member sleeping, failure to follow instructions; Fort Wayne, IN – failure to protect job, GPS documented.

Medical Delays: Many members are experiencing long delays in the return to work process. It appears to be a fairly even balance between members not furnishing complete records and the medical departments incompetence. Upon submission of their return to work note, members should also submit complete records of all visits to any practitioner (doctor, surgeon, physical therapist) regarding the issue. If any of the treating records show any mention of returning for future follow-up, the member will have to furnish notes for the follow-up as well.

In Your Service,

Tom Owens
General Chairman